

THE STATE

*of the CITY*  
**ADDRESS**

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

*February 12, 2007*

DELIVERED BY

The Honorable Mayor

Joan F. Foster



The Honorable Vice Mayor

Bert Dodson, Jr.



# THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

## *February 12, 2007*

To my fellow members of City Council, City Administration, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, good evening and welcome to the 2007 State of the City Address. I am both privileged and honored to stand before you tonight as your Mayor. As I do so, I am reminded of the people who served as an inspiration to me and who have worked so hard and passionately for the City we love. People like Joan McCallum and Pat Lovern, two trailblazing leaders who served before me on City Council. Individuals like our former mayors whose humble service truly defines the concept of “servant leader.” I owe much to my mother, Irene Fitzgerald who always told me to work hard. Her belief in me gave me a confidence that allows me to believe in others, and myself. I am thankful for my husband and family who provide me support, encouragement, and understanding as I strive to fulfill the duties of Mayor and City Council. I am grateful for all the citizens of Lynchburg, who work together to bring about great change in our City, and will bring about even greater change in the future. I appreciate and enjoy the various voices on City Council, as my colleagues and I work hard to make this the best place to live. While we may not always agree, we never question each other’s passion and commitment to this City. With God’s support and the support of our citizens, I will continue to put my heart and soul into making Lynchburg the best it can be.

I am happy tonight to welcome our spouses and families that sacrifice and make it possible for those of us on City Council to do what we do. They are truly long-suffering and patient and I thank them for their support and understanding. Spouses and families of City Council members, please stand and be recognized.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to report that the State of the City is strong — and we have much to celebrate. However, these past few months have made it clear to me that there are some difficult issues that we must address as a community. I believe strongly that we have an ethical and moral mandate to do all that is within our power to ensure that this community is one that is inclusive and respectful of all of its citizens. To that end, I will be working with City Council, our City Manager, and staff to begin a process to promote dialogue within this community about race, socio-economic disparity, and other issues that I believe in years past we have been hesitant to address. I do not expect that it will be easy and nothing will change overnight but it will be a beginning and a step in the right direction.

I am reminded of the sage advice, “Seek first to understand, and then, to be understood.” I strongly encourage this community, citizens from all walks of life, all ethnic backgrounds, all ages, and all socio-economic backgrounds to come together in this effort, not in the spirit of blame and accusations, but in the spirit of making this a great place to work, live, and thrive for all citizens. Each of us is capable of influencing change but only if we can work together and only if we each agree to begin to listen as well, as to speak. Lastly, each of us must be willing to take personal action necessary to effect changes. And so starting tonight, I am asking all of you to join us in this community dialogue of healing and restoration. We owe at least that much to ourselves and to future generations.

This year Virginia will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and special events are taking place all over the state to celebrate and honor this historic moment. In Lynchburg, we are also celebrating an historic event, the 250th anniversary of the first Lynch’s Ferry. I think John Lynch would be astonished and proud if he could see Lynchburg today. What started as a small humble village has blossomed into a thriving city of nearly 69,000 citizens.

So much has changed since those early days. Our City is rich in history, but we continue to make great strides towards the future.

Last year, some of us were honored to travel to New Orleans to accept a “Great American Main Street” award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Lynchburg was one of only four communities in the nation to be chosen to receive the award for 2006. The City and Lynch’s Landing were recognized for broad-based community support of revitalization efforts, its strong commitment to historic preservation, and cooperative efforts to recruit new businesses. Private investment in downtown last year was over \$23 million dollars and another \$13 million dollars will be invested early this year to complete important projects. The City is continuing its investment downtown with the \$1.4 million dollar Depot Plaza improvement project and the development of plans to enhance Riverfront Festival Park. According to a report recently completed by Lynch’s Landing, 2006 saw 10 new housing units added downtown, 14 net new businesses open, and a net increase of 50 new employees, including the relocation of BWXT’s corporate headquarters. City Market Lofts will hold an open house soon and the long – awaited Bluffwalk hotel and conference center is close to opening. I know that over the years, some people have questioned the City’s investment downtown. I believe this City’s commitment to preserving and revitalizing its past means we

will be better positioned to create its future. The return on investment has been beyond what we could hope for, but the results prove that the investment has been wise.

While there has been a concerted effort to revitalize downtown, I assure you that we have not forgotten other parts of the City. In May of 2006, City Council gave its endorsement to the Fifth Street Master Plan. The Plan recognizes and celebrates the history and heritage of Fifth Street while expanding opportunities to include new and expanded businesses. We are continuing our efforts with the Midtown Connector and working with Centra Health to ensure that anyone coming to one of the Commonwealth's premier hospitals, can easily do so.

Wyndhurst has been extremely successful and work is underway on Cornerstone, the City's second traditional neighborhood development. We continue to have great success with regional cooperation and efforts are underway with the regional solid waste initiative and water supply planning. Let's face it, cities and counties, we need each other. Let's work together as a team whenever we can.

Last year, our City Manager restructured several City departments to allow for more efficient and focused service delivery. Several of those department directors are with us tonight, including David Owen, Director of Public Works, Gaynelle Hart, Deputy Director of Public Works, Tim Mitchell, Director of Utilities, Donna Witt, Director of Financial Services and Tamara Rosser, Director of Juvenile Services. Also with us tonight is our new director of Community Planning, Charlene Montford. Please stand so that we may recognize all of you. Thank you.

The City of Lynchburg is a lovely old city—but like most things, with age comes the need for more maintenance. What was considered state of the art when it was built is now old and outdated. Every year around this time, you hear us talk about the Combined Sewer Overflow project. It is not the most glamorous of subjects but it is the single most extensive and expensive capital project in the history of this City. We have made great strides in eliminating the overflows, but we are still looking at many more years of work. Eliminating CSOs is important to the environment and it is the right thing to do, but sometimes doing the right thing carries a large price tag. Last year, our General Assembly made a disappointing decision and did not provide any state funding to assist the City with the CSO projects. This year, although the Senate voted to provide Lynchburg with \$3.5 million dollars a year for ten years, it seems that the House of Delegates intends to repeat last year's mistake. They fail to understand that although the elimination of CSOs is being done at the local level it is a project with

statewide implications. While this political bickering is going on, our citizens are forced to bear the burden of this unfunded mandate. Although their efforts have fallen short so far, I want to thank Governor Tim Kaine, State Senator Steve Newman, and Delegate Shannon Valentine for their continued efforts on our behalf.

This past Friday, the City became one of only three communities out of five different states in the Environmental Protection Agency's Region Three to receive the PISCES Award for its CSO Program. The City received this award because its program is well run, effective, innovative, and efficient. More importantly, it means that despite adequate funding the City is doing a good job utilizing the dollars we do have to alleviate this problem. Congratulations to Tim Mitchell, Director of Utilities and Assistant Utilities Director, Greg Poff for a job well done.

Before I turn the podium over to Vice Mayor Dodson, I want to congratulate the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce, its board and staff, for becoming the first chamber of commerce in Virginia and one of only 23 in the entire country to receive a five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The achievement is a clear sign to the business community that not only are we "open for business" we are strong advocates for the business community.

Last year Central Virginia Imaging invested an additional \$2.7 million in its facilities and added six healthcare jobs; R.R. Donnelley re-invested almost \$30 million dollars and created 38 new jobs, and the News and Advance announced a \$17 million dollars expansion project that is underway. These three companies alone represent almost \$50 million dollars of expansion investment and we thank them for their continued commitment to this community.

The Office of Economic Development and the Industrial Development Authority have developed a Master Partnership with the middle and high schools for a new program for students, including a "Business Rocks" tour and the Mentor One and Just Hire One Programs. These programs are intended to have an impact on our young people early in their educational career. It exposes them to the workplace and the need to be prepared. I congratulate everyone involved in these endeavors. By investing in our young people we are investing in the future of our businesses and the future of our community.

I am proud to introduce a group of outstanding young people who are with us tonight—they are some of the members of the Mayor's Youth Council. We are pleased to have you with us.

**❧ Honorable Vice Mayor Bert Dodson, Jr. ❧**

Tonight, the Mayor and I will recognize 11 of our fellow citizens for the countless hours they have given to this community. They are the 2007 Award of Excellence recipients. You will hear more about them immediately following the State of the City Address, but for now let me introduce them to you: George Costan, MaryJane Dolan, Larry Holloway, Yuille (Skipper) Holt, III, Hiawatha Johnson, Jr., Julia Passmore, Patricia Price, Eugene Tweedy, Laura Hamilton, Stephanie Cox, and Dr. Pete Warren, who could not be with us tonight. We are also pleased to welcome some of our former Mayor's Award of Excellence recipients. Please, would the current and past recipients stand so we may acknowledge all of you.

Unfortunately, we are missing one of our former award recipients this evening. Mr. Roland Peters was one of the first citizens to receive the Mayor's Award of Excellence for his many years of faithful service to this community. Roland was a true Southern gentleman and an inspiration to everyone he met. He was a wonderful citizen and he left behind a legacy of caring and commitment. We miss having him with us tonight and we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Eloise, and his family.

What a year this has been! The Mayor has told you about some of the City's accomplishments and some of our challenges. In 2006, we celebrated the completion of the \$28 million dollar renovation and restoration of E.C. Glass High School. Now we have a beautiful historic high school with all of the latest technological improvements and resource facilities to support one of the best high schools in our Commonwealth.

Together, the City of Lynchburg and Lynchburg City Schools have worked in the planning and implementation of capital improvements and upgrades to our middle and high school athletic fields. The upgrades include new sport turf fields at both Glass and Heritage High Schools, which are under construction and should be completed next month. The irrigation of the athletic fields at Dunbar, Sandusky and Linkhorne Middle Schools, and the re-grading of the field at Linkhorne Middle are major strides for these schools. These capital improvements are tremendous not only for the school system, but also for the many Parks and Recreation Department programs and community partners who utilize the City's athletic fields.

City Council remains committed to ensuring that our school facilities meet the needs of our students. A top quality education for all of our children is important to this City. We are proud to report that Lynchburg City Schools is a Fully Accredited

School Division and have made “Adequate Yearly Progress” as determined by the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Both of our high schools, E. C. Glass and Heritage, were ranked among *Newsweek's* List of Top 1000 U.S. High Schools for the second year.

Our teachers are among the most professional and dedicated in the state. Teachers like Janice “Jan” Suddith, an eighth-grade civics and economics teacher at Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation was named the 2007 Region Five Teacher of the Year and the 2006-2007 Lynchburg Teacher of the Year, or Sandusky Middle School’s Connie Clements Ellison, who is the first place winner in the National Society of American Pen Women’s annual literary contest, and Barbara Clair from Dearington Elementary School for Innovation who was named Regional Economic Educator of the Year for her efforts in the school-wide DESI Mundo economic program, or Lisa Foster from E.C. Glass who earned the teaching profession’s top credential by achieving National Board Certification in 2006. We are happy they could be with us. Please stand. Ladies and Gentlemen please join me in congratulating them. Thank you.

Recently, our Citizens Survey indicated that public safety continues to rank highly among the quality of services provided to the community. I am proud to announce that while violent crime rates have been steadily rising in other parts of the country, Lynchburg’s violent crime and property crime rates are down by over six percent compared to 2000, and we continue to have one of the lowest crime rates for our population size in the state and in the country.

The credit for this goes to the law-abiding residents of our community and to an outstanding Police Department that is dedicated to protecting and serving the citizens of Lynchburg. We applaud our Lynchburg Police Department for several significant achievements in 2006. The Department drug enforcement efforts increased by 33% over 2005 and almost 50% since the year 2000. Over one quarter of a million dollars of illegal drugs were seized by our narcotics unit alone.

670 fifth grade students graduated from the DARE program, and over 32 Neighborhood Watch groups are active and working throughout the City.

Finally, the Department distributed over 1,000 gun locks to the public in a partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice to promote the Project Childsafe Program, which stresses gun safety education. We are indebted to our men and women in blue who protect and serve every day of the year.

Last year, our Fire and EMS Department underwent a stringent assessment to become one of only 134 internationally accredited departments (out of approximately 30,000) in the world. According to the Assessment Team, Lynchburg's Fire and EMS department is one of the best trained and well equipped departments in the United States of America.

The residents of Lynchburg can be proud to have accredited Police and Fire and EMS Departments and a first-class emergency communication center. Last year, the Emergency Communications Center answered almost 98,000 calls for public safety assistance, including 82,000 calls for police and 16,000 calls for Fire and EMS personnel. We should take comfort in knowing that should the need arise highly experienced professionals will come to our aid. When our citizens call, our First Line Responders do their job, and we should never take them for granted.

Fire Chief Brad Ferguson could not be with us tonight, but we welcome Deputy Chief Anthony Smith and Deputy Chief Doug Dejarnette. Colonel Chuck Bennett also had a prior commitment, but we welcome his two Deputy Chiefs, Major Parks Snead and Major Mike Spencer.

In December, Banker Steel put the City of Lynchburg in the national spotlight when it was chosen to fabricate the steel beams that would become the foundation of the 1,776 foot tall Freedom Tower on the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan. New York Governor George Pataki and Virginia's Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling came to Lynchburg to dedicate the first steel beams, and thousands of you came to Lynchburg City Stadium to sign your names on the beams in a show of solidarity with the people of New York City. As the Lieutenant Governor said, "On that day, we were all New Yorkers."

And, in July, the Exchange Club of Lynchburg sponsored the Healing Fields – A flag memorial honoring the men and women in our military that have given the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Anyone who viewed or spent time among those flags can attest to a deep, profound sorrow for the loved ones left behind by our brave and courageous fallen heroes. Our Country may be divided about the Iraqi war, but we stand united behind our troops in harm's way. God bless their devotion to our nation.

Lynchburg, our City of Seven Hills, is a great place to live, work and worship; and I know that I can speak for my fellow Council Members when I say how proud we are of this community. Thank you for your time tonight.



~ Honorable Mayor Joan F. Foster ~

Thank you Bert. I agree with you Bert, Lynchburg is a great City. This City is filled with caring individuals that give of themselves everyday. Bert mentioned our Award of Excellence recipients and they certainly epitomize some of the best that Lynchburg has to offer. I cannot neglect to mention all the wonderful nonprofit organizations in our City as well that feed and shelter the homeless, protect the children, support the single parents, provide legal assistance, assist the elderly, counsel the troubles, and deliver financial assistance in tough times. We have many, many committed and caring people in our community who work as staff and volunteers for nonprofits, and I want to thank you for all you do to make our City and region a wonderful place. I also want to thank our own City employees who continue to increase their United Way contributions every year in a spirit of caring and giving and I applaud them for that.

If time would allow, Bert and I could tell you about so many wonderful things that are going on in this City. We could tell you about our great Parks and Recreation programs and the opening of the new Kemper Street Trail, or the fact that the City was recognized as one of the top 50 Smart Places to Live by Kiplinger and that Forbes magazine named Lynchburg as one of the top 200 best metro areas for business and careers. We could tell you that the City received a Digital Cities award for using technology to serve citizens. We could also mention how wonderful it was to celebrate our Public Library's 40th anniversary and the fact that we graduated our fourth Citizens Academy, bringing the number of citizens who have gone through the Academy to over 120—but we just can't take the time tonight to mention everything that we are so very proud of!

The Award of Excellence ceremony will take place immediately following the end of this portion of the Address. But before we close, I want to say that we are a strong city and we will be an even stronger community. Someone once wrote that community building is a difficult task but it is a principal task of local government. I have every confidence that we will be a community that honors and respects diversity.

If I could have just one wish granted, it would be that we all become a bit more caring, a bit more concerned, a bit more understanding of one another, and a bit more appreciative of each and every person for their unique talents and gifts.

Thank you for sharing tonight with us. Let us all work together to make 2007 the best year we have ever had. God Bless Lynchburg and God Bless America.

## ~ MAYOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE CEREMONY ~

At this time, we will recognize 11 individuals that have given of their time, talents, and expertise to create a better community. We are honored they are with us tonight. I have asked my Council colleagues to assist Bert and me with the Awards of Excellence and at this time I ask Councilman Garrett to begin.

### **GEORGE A. COSTAN**

Our first 2007 Mayor's Award of Excellence recipient is George Costan. George is unique in that he didn't start playing golf until he was 40 and at the tender age of 70, he shot four under par at Boonsboro Country Club! Although George loves playing golf, and has won a tournament or two, there is something he enjoys even more. One of George's passions is seeing children and parents from disadvantaged homes succeed. He worked with Ed Barksdale, the late Charles Church, and others to found the College Hill Neighborhood School, a state certified school for children ages two and a half to four years. The first graduates went into kindergarten reading at a second grade level!

In addition to the school helping children to succeed, there is also a parent coordinator that schedules seminars for parents to improve their parenting and housekeeping skills. The parents are also provided tutoring and instruction in order to obtain their GED. Following that, parents are enrolled with Work Force 2000 where they receive counseling and training that help them to qualify for jobs that pay above minimum wage. And they have seen great success! Currently there are parents enrolled in cosmetology at CVCC, technical programs at Miller Motte Technical School, medical records, laboratory technician training, nursing, and the plumber's apprentice program at Southern Air.

George Costan's desire to see everyone have a chance to succeed is making a real difference in the lives of the families that have children attending this school. Please join me in thanking George for his hard work and commitment to our families in need.

### **MARYJANE DOLAN**

Our next recipient has called Lynchburg home for nearly twenty-nine years. In those 29 years, MaryJane Dolan has raised five children, nine grandchildren, founded Colonial Brokerage House, and served on a number of professional boards and coun-

cils. She now serves on the boards of Amazement Square, YMCA, and the Centra Health Foundation.

MaryJane not only serves on community boards, her philanthropy has literally changed the landscape of Lynchburg. MaryJane and her late husband Ron helped create the very first United Way Day of Caring.

They also established the Ron and MaryJane Dolan Center for Peace and Justice to promote cooperation among the colleges and universities of Central Virginia and to foster a dialogue on such topics as social justice, economic justice, peace, principled leadership and ethics. MaryJane is generous with her material blessings and financially supports a number of organizations, especially those that work with the less-fortunate.

It is with great honor and sincere appreciation that I ask you to welcome 2007 Mayor's Award of Excellence recipient MaryJane Dolan.

## **LARRY HOLLOWAY**

Larry Holloway has a desire to have Lynchburg be a safe place in which to live and raise a family. That desire propelled him to serve on the Lynchburg Transportation Safety Commission, currently as its chairman. Larry is a member of the Lynchburg Fraternal Order of Police and a charter member of the FOP Foundation Board. In addition he serves on both the Police and Fire Review boards.

His varied interests have also led him to serve on theboards of Daily Bread and the Alliance for Families and Children. Larry has volunteered for the Lynchburg City Schools in a variety of ways including one-on-one with students as a role model and tutor, and serving on several educational boards and committees.

In his spare time, Larry likes hunting and fishing so much that he founded the Virginia Gentlemen's Fish and Hunt Club.

Please join me in thanking Larry Holloway for making a lasting and positive impression on our community.

## **YUILLE "SKIPPER" HOLT, III**

You may know our next recipient affectionately as Skipper. Yuille Holt works full time as the President and CEO of Campbell Insurance here in Lynchburg. He has to

be one of the most organized men in the community because he currently serves on 11 community boards and has served on 12 others in the past. How he does it while heading up one of the busiest insurance firms in the City is amazing!

He is the Past President of the United Way of Central Virginia, Past President of United Way of Virginia, Past Chair and Board member of the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce, Board member for the National Conference of Community and Justice, and past chair and board member of E.C. Glass and Heritage High School's Education Foundation.

As for his current community work, Skipper serves in a variety of roles for the Academy of Fine Arts, Amazement Square Children's Museum, Centra Health Foundation, Central Virginia Industries, Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, Lynchburg Area Development Corporation, Lynchburg College, Meals on Wheels, just to name a few!

When not meeting with area leaders to work on projects that improve the quality of life here in Lynchburg, chances are you can find Skipper in the woods observing birds of the field in their natural habitat. He is an avid member of several wildlife bird clubs.

Please join me in extending a warm round of applause in thanking Yuille Holt for his time and commitment to our community.

## **HIAWATHA JOHNSON, JR.**

The next recipient of the Mayor's Award of Excellence describes himself as an "entertainment artist." His artistry has made a great impact on Lynchburg, the nation, and even overseas.

Nearly thirty years ago, Hiawatha Johnson began combining Pan African folklore with dance, music, and magic to create what he calls Kalimba Talk. This unique combination has led to a number of television appearances in Japan and nationally, on PBS. Hiawatha's artistic abilities don't stop there. He is one of the founders of Riverviews Artspace where he has opened the KTMA Performing Art Studio.

Hiawatha frequently lends his artistic talent to the Virginia School of the Arts as an accompanist, where he is a Guest-in-Residence teaching improvisation and other rhythmic movements. He currently serves as the artistic director for The Black Theatre Ensemble of Virginia. Lynchburg is fortunate to have someone of Hiawatha's talent

and expertise willing to share his talent with this community and the “New Neighborhood”.

Please join me in welcoming Hiawatha Johnson.

## **JULIA PASSMORE**

If cats and dogs could talk, they would have a lot of great things to say about our next award recipient. Julia Passmore or Julie as her friends call her is a woman that loves animals and wants them all to have a safe and happy home. She has made a positive difference over the years in the lives of families and pets in Lynchburg.

She has spent the better part of the last twenty-five years volunteering at the Lynchburg Humane Society. After moving to Lynchburg from England in 1981, Julia Passmore immediately got involved in the community! During her first three years in Lynchburg she served full time as a Humane Society volunteer, and after that, she averaged 20 hours a week volunteering her time to public relations, humane education, and animal placement. Julia has served on the board of the Humane Society for ten years. Though retired from the board now, Julia has not retired from her volunteer work with the Humane Society.

Julia wanted everyone to know that she was proud to accept this award “on behalf of all the Humane Society volunteers that devote countless hours to making our community a better place to live-for both the people and the animals that call Lynchburg home.”

Please join me in congratulating Julia Passmore for her 25 years of volunteer work for the Lynchburg Humane Society.

## **PATRICIA D. PRICE**

If I could only use one word to describe our next recipient, it would be the word “involved.” Patricia Price does not sit on the sidelines, she gets into middle of the action.

Pat’s professional work as the associate director for the Center for Community Development & Social Justice at Lynchburg College places her in numerous roles; she directs the Young Champions Program at the Amelia Pride Center; serves on the Partners in Education Steering committee for Lynchburg City Schools; and is a member of the program development team for Lead Safe Lynchburg.

In addition to her professional work, Pat makes the time to get involved in the community as a volunteer too. She serves on the boards for a number of Lynchburg community action groups, including the United Way of Central Virginia, the Fifth Street Community Development Corporation, the Neighborhood Alliance Network, Old City Cemetery, Interfaith Outreach, and that's just to name a few.

Pat believes in doing more than just talk, she believes in action; and her enthusiasm and involvement in our community are proof of that.

Ladies and Gentlemen please join me in welcoming Patricia Price, a 2007 Mayor's Award of Excellence. I am happy to present the Mayor's Award of Excellence to Patricia Price.

## **EUGENE TWEEDY**

Though Eugene Tweedy serves on the board of various community service organizations, he prefers more active participation. That is why you will find him every Thursday evening at the Jubilee Center on Florida Avenue. Eugene has a passion for youth, supervises open gym night. He is there for the youth—playing pick-up games and providing gentle but firm discipline to kids that may not have any other adult who cares for them.

Eugene is currently the president of the Hill City Youth Football and Cheerleading Association, serves as a board member for the Jubilee Family Development Center and the Hunton-Randolph Community Center. He also serves on the City's Youth and Prevention Services Citizen Advisory Board and the City and Schools' Athletic Field Task Force.

As an effective communicator, Eugene speaks to civic and social organizations about what he terms as "inner-city at-promise" youth. Spending time in the inner-city and working in the past as a probation officer for the Juvenile Court System, Eugene has seen how tough life can be for some of our youth. This experience allows Eugene to see the promise in each youth he meets, no matter what problems they may be dealing with at the time.

It gives me great pleasure to present our next award recipient, Mr. Eugene Tweedy.

## **DR. D.L. "PETE" WARREN**

Unfortunately, our next recipient, Pete Warren, could not be with us tonight due to a prior commitment out of town. Most of you will remember him as a former City Councilmember and Mayor. Although he no longer serves on City Council, Pete continues to make Lynchburg a great place in which to live, work, and play. His extensive volunteer work includes board work for Kid's Haven, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, the Mental Health Association, the Free Clinic, Interfaith Outreach, and United Way, just to name a few.

Pete loves life, and because of that, his enthusiasm permeates all that he does. Whether he is playing golf, working in his garden, or facilitating a board discussion, Pete gives his best to everything he does.

He wants you to know that although he could not be with us tonight, he is most honored to learn that he was awarded the Mayor's Award of Excellence.

Join me in a round of applause in honor of Pete Warren.

## **~ VICE MAYOR'S YOUNG ADULT ~ AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

The following two individuals are being recognized with the Vice Mayor's Award of Excellence. Councilmember Gillette.

### **STEPHANIE COX**

Our first 2007 Young Adult Award of Excellence goes to Ms. Stephanie Cox. Stephanie is a Virginia Tech graduate and began her professional career with Amazement Square here in Lynchburg. While working at Amazement Square, she became intensely interested in downtown, so much so, that after leaving Amazement Square in 2001, she began volunteering at Lynch's Landing. Her volunteer work became a paid position and she now is the Membership and Communications Director.

Although she spends many hours working with other volunteers on downtown projects, Stephanie is still volunteering herself. She serves on the board of the YWCA, volunteers with the Lynchburg Humane Society, and serves on a committee for Amazement Square.

On any given Saturday, you may find Stephanie at the Etcetera Shop, a consignment shop operated by the Lynchburg Women's Club, which donates up to \$30,000 to the community each year. Most recently, Stephanie has helped to start up the Young Professionals of Central Virginia, a group working to recruit and retain young professionals in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome our first Young Adult Award of Excellence recipient, Stephanie Cox.

## **LAURA LACY HAMILTON**

From her birthplace of Knoxville, Tennessee, to a small railroad town in rural Western Nebraska, Laura Lacy Hamilton has followed in the steps of those preceding her. Following her grandfather's footsteps, she graduated from the College of William and Mary and followed with a Masters in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Laura's early career placed her in Washington DC working in a variety of organizations, which would later prove to be valuable experience in her volunteer work in Lynchburg. After marrying, she and her husband relocated to Lynchburg in 2001.

Laura jumped right into volunteering by working with the Academy of Fine Arts on their fundraising campaign. She is now president-elect of the Junior League of Lynchburg and serves on the board for the Alliance of Families and Children. Laura also serves as the chair of the Lynchburg Planning Commission.

This humble young woman is making a difference in her community. She is leaving good footsteps for those who come after her to follow.

Join me in congratulating Laura Lacy Hamilton.



Congratulations to all of our Award of Excellence recipients. Please join me in another round of applause for their volunteer spirit. Ladies and gentlemen, this ends the State of the City Address. Thank you for coming and now please join us for the "Taste of Downtown" reception. Good night.



# FORMER MAYOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

## 2006

Wayne Dahlgren  
John Doyle, Jr.  
Laura Dupuy  
Kelvin Moore  
Dr. Thomas & Ellen Nygaard  
Dr. Augustus A. Petticolas, Jr.  
Louie Robinson  
Valerie Robinson  
Lucy Guggenheimer Ross  
Barbara Salisbury  
M.W. Thornhill, Jr.

### VICE MAYOR'S YOUNG ADULT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Tracey Dixon  
Teal McClure  
Duane Thomas

## 2005

Aubrey L. Barbour  
Jim Brent  
Alease Brown  
Sissy Davidson  
Eleanor "Stevie" Dovel  
Walter M. Fore, Jr.  
Bruce Habitzruther  
Leslie S. Phillips

### VICE MAYOR'S YOUNG ADULT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Jason V. Giambrone  
Christine Kennedy

## 2004

Georgia Barksdale  
James K. Candler  
A. Anderson Duck  
James Mitchell  
George Nash  
Rosel Schewel  
James S. Whitaker

## 2003

Ronald Dolan  
Stuart C. Fauber  
Thomas J. Gerdy  
Delia Hooks  
Laura Munson  
Becky Porter  
Dr. James H. Taylor

## 2002

Mary B. Adams  
Rev. Bev Cosby (*Posthumously*)  
Edwin R. Page  
Mary H. Payne  
Marc A. Schewel  
Lawrence W. Simpson, Jr.  
J. F. Taylor, Jr.  
Anne R. Wesley

## 2001

Dr. Jerry L. Falwell  
Rodger W. Fauber  
Josephine "Jiggie" Holt  
Gail B. Jackson  
Dr. William F. Quillian, Ph.D.  
Irma W. Seiferth  
Harry Smith, Jr.

## 2000

Calvin Falwell  
Yvonne T. Ferguson  
Joan MacCallum  
Rev. Herbert Moore  
Roland K. Peters  
Elliot S. Schewel  
Chauncey Spencer

## 1999

Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III  
Charles F. Church  
Rev. Ronald A. Gills, Sr.  
Dr. Peter W. Houck  
Rev. Haywood Robinson, Jr.  
Jane White